

## Influenza Activity in Kansas as of December 10, 2003

The latest flu report from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the week ending December 6, 2003 classifies flu activity in the state as "Regional." The classification is based on influenza being recorded in at least 2 (but less than half) of the state's 6 public health regions. Laboratory confirmed influenza was recorded in 2 public health regions for the week ending 12/6/2003. The state has confirmed influenza A cases in 4 regions as of December 9, 2003 and the report for week ending December 13, 2003 will be "Widespread" activity.

Laboratory tests have confirmed that influenza type A N3H2 viruses are circulating in Kansas this season; strain information from CDC is pending. One presentation of influenza type B has also been confirmed by a rapid test.

This season's vaccine was formulated to protect against type A/Panama, type A/New Caledonia and type B/Hong Kong and is expected to offer some protection against the A/Fujian strain.

KDHE strongly recommends flu shots for all high-risk individuals and everyone should be reminded to practice good respiratory etiquette i.e.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue every time you cough or sneeze and throw the used tissue in the waste basket
- If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into the crook of your elbow
- After sneezing/coughing, always wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand cleaner
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Do not share eating utensils, drinking glasses, towels or other personal items.

If you have any questions about influenza activity in Kansas or wish to become a sentinel site for surveillance, please contact Daniel Neises (785) 296-5585 or Kathleen Waters (785) 296-0028.